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Patent  
Attorney Docket No. 4353

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Mikio Yoneoka, Osamu Hashimoto )  
Akira Ishiwada, Hisashi Otsuka )

Application No.: 09/980,321 )

Filed: November 15, 2001 )

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING TOWN GAS )

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

STATUS REQUEST

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This application was filed on November 15, 2001 and accordingly, over 2 ½ years has now passed without initial examination. Applicants therefore request a Status Inquiry to determine that the application has been assigned for examination.

Please investigate and inform the undersigned Attorney of Record as soon as possible. The undersigned Attorney of Record was not able to satisfactory obtain any information with regard to this application over the telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROTHERS AND CAROTHERS



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FBC:jkc

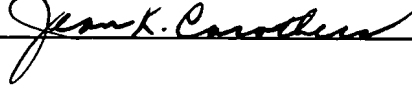
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 26, 2004

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